

SUBCOMMITTEE: ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

SENATE BILL NO. 142

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on/for _____)

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Dunnivant)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-212.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; Virtual Virginia; availability.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-212.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-212.2. Virtual Virginia.

From such funds as are appropriated, the Department of Education shall establish ~~a statewide electronic classroom~~ an online learning program to be known as the Virtual Virginia Program. Virtual Virginia shall be made available to every public middle and high school in Virginia ~~the Commonwealth~~ and may be made available to every public elementary school in the Commonwealth.

The Department may utilize the services of the Commonwealth's educational television stations and other providers, as well as any other appropriate technology for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia.

The services of this program shall be limited to educational purposes. Educational purposes shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in subject areas that are not available in all schools and in-service training for instructional, administrative and support personnel.

The Department may contract with one or more local school boards that have created online courses to make one or more such courses available to other school divisions through the Virtual Virginia Program. The Department shall approve all courses offered through Virtual Virginia, including those made available by local school boards to other school divisions. A school board that makes one or more of its online courses available to other school divisions through Virtual Virginia (i) shall not be considered a multidivision online provider pursuant to § 22.1-212.23 and (ii) may charge a per-course or per-student

27 fee to school divisions to defray the costs of developing the course and providing course instruction using
28 teachers employed by the offering school board. The Department shall approve any such fee schedule
29 before a school board offers any such online courses through Virtual Virginia.

30 The Department shall establish the Virtual Learning Advisory Committee, which shall consist of
31 one superintendent or his designee from each of the eight superintendent's regions, the Superintendent of
32 Public Instruction or his designee, and such other members as the Department deems appropriate, not to
33 exceed three additional members. The contractor that manages Virtual Virginia shall serve as a nonvoting
34 ex officio member. The Committee shall advise the Department on (i) online courses, in-service training,
35 and digital instructional resources that school divisions need to meet the Commonwealth's graduation
36 requirements and (ii) strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia's
37 public schools, including cost-effective access to high-need and low-demand courses, training, content,
38 and digital resources.

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